



## NEWS RELEASE October 22, 2008

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## **Hundreds of Ready to Work Youth Meet Employers At Youth Opportunity Center's Seasonal Hiring Event**

Nearly 500 youth, ages 16 - 24 year old, applied for seasonal employment with Macy's, Sam's Club, Blue Wave, UPS, Pinkberry, and C.P.S. Security Solutions last week at the Pacific Gateway Workforce Investment Network's Youth Opportunity Center (YOC).

"It was really, really cool," said Le'Onita Edmonson, a 16 year-old at Cabrillo High School's School for Social Justice. "I applied for two positions and the employers told me that there were more benefits than just the salary. I love the YOC. It helped me learn how to write a resume and find a job. There are lots of cool people there who helped me and gave me really good advice about life."

In addition to hiring events, the YOC helps youth access job-search tools, resume development and online resume posting, work readiness training, as well career and academic opportunities.

"This hiring event was well planned and well executed; we met hundreds of qualified youth to help us through the heavy retail season. The Youth Opportunity Center staff does exceptional work and I am always impressed with the heart and passion they demonstrate in all that they do, " said Mr. Scott Warren. UPS Recruiter.

The Pacific Gateway Workforce Investment Network's Business Solutions Team provides free recruitment services, including hiring events and on-line job posting, for area employers.

"What a turn out! It was thrilling to see so many eager and well-prepared job seekers lined up around the building for the opportunity to meet with employers," said Cherie Gomez, Pacific Gateway Workforce Investment Network's One Stop Career Center Manager.

For more information on youth services, visit <a href="www.hireayouth.com">www.hireayouth.com</a> or call 562.570.4700. The YOC is located at 3447 Atlantic Avenue, Long Beach, CA 90807. For employer services, visit <a href="www.pacificgatewayworkforce.com">www.pacificgatewayworkforce.com</a> or call 562.570.WORK.

Equal Opportunity Employer/Program.

Auxiliary aids and services available upon request to individuals with disabilities. To request a reasonable accommodation, please call 562.570.3738 or TTY 562.570.4629, at least 72 hours prior to event.

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